

THE MIDWESTERN EARLY ARCHAIC AND THE
MAUMEE RIVER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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My objectives for this paper are twofold: to present an overview of Early Archaic manifestations in the American midwest, and to relate this overview to the Early Archaic components encountered by Mohow and Diaz (1986) in their survey of Maumee River Drainage in Northeastern Indiana. Most researchers agree that the period defined as the Early Archaic began about 8,000 B.C. with the climatic shift at the close of the Pleistocene (Collins, 1979a; 20; C. Chapman, 1975; 126). As most of the Pleistocene megafauna became extinct, aboriginal populations became increasingly dependent on hunting and gathering to draw upon a broader subsistence base. New adaptive strategies demanded new tools, and Early Archaic peoples developed a wide array of specialized tools for hunting and gathering activities (Collins, 1979a; 20). The general midwestern environment became one of deciduous forests and faunal patterns changed accordingly. The temporal boundary between the Early and Middle Archaic is not clearly defined. James Fitting (1975; 65-66) suggests that the Early Archaic terminates about 6,000 B.C. Others, including Carl Chapman (1975; 30) maintain that the period extended to around 5,000 B.C. Due to the persistence of certain diagnostic lithic technology traits, this paper will accept the 8,000 to 5,000 B.C. dates for the Early Archaic Period in the midwest.

On the whole, there is a great deal we do not know about the Early Archaic. While a good number of point types are recognized as being diagnostic of the period, some of these lack clearly defined usage periods. Moreover, we know relatively little about Early Archaic adaptive mechanisms beyond the general characteristics already mentioned. Collins (1979a; 20) states that "The Early Archaic tradition can be well documented from stratigraphically defined components in only a few archaeological sites in the eastern United States. While Early Archaic materials are often found in surface deposits or mixed with later deposits, few sites have revealed discrete intact components uncontaminated by other materials." Mason (1981; 128-129), says of the Early Archaic in the Great Lakes region "All that has been found within the region is a very thin and discontinuous scatter of typologically suggestive artifacts with only limited and infrequent associations."

It is generally agreed that the most readily recognized Early Archaic traits are the points. Midwestern point types

diagnostic of the Early Archaic can be generally divided into two categories. First, there are those types that represent influences that arose in the Southeastern United States. This category includes Kirk Corner-Notch (Broyles, 1971; 63, 65; Payne, 1982; 38-40), Kirk Stemmed (Broyles, 1971; 67; Payne, 1982; 41-42), Palmer Points (Coe, 1964; Cambron and Hulse, 1975; 101), Charleston Corner-Notched (Broyles, 1971; 56-57), Amos Corner-Notched (Broyles, 1971; 55), MacCorkle Bifurcates (Broyles, 1971; 71; J. Chapman, 1975; 245; Payne, 1982; 43-44), St. Albans Bifurcates (Broyles, 1971; 73, 75; J. Chapman, 1975; 245-246; Payne, 1982; 45), Wabash Diagonal-Notched Points (Cochran, 1982), LeCroy Bifurcates (Broyles, 1971; 69; J. Chapman, 1975; 246), Kanawha Bifurcates (Broyles, 1971; 59; J. Chapman, 1975; 69; J. Chapman, 1975; 246), Kessel Side-Notched (Broyles, 1971; 60-61), and Big Sandy Broad-Base Points (Cambron and Hulse, 1975; 16). The second category of Early Archaic Point types represent influences that arose west of the Mississippi River, possibly on the western plains. This group of types includes St. Charles (C. Chapman, 1975; 254-255; Luchterhand, 1970; 31-32), Thebes (Luchterhand, 1970; 31-32; Payne, 1982; 50-52), Lost Lake Points (Cambron and Hulse, 1975; 83), Hardin Barbed (Logan, 1952; Luchterhand, 1970; 27-28; C. Chapman, 1975; 249), Graham Cave Side-Notched (C. Chapman, 1975; 248), Hidden Valley Stemmed Points (C. Chapman, 1975; 249-250), and Rice Lobed (C. Chapman, 1975; 254). The precise affiliation of the Rice Lobed type is in dispute, as the type exhibits characteristics of both southeastern and western influence. The recognition of all of these temporally diagnostic point types has been crucial to identifying most midwestern Early Archaic sites. In the midwest, alternate-edge leveling of the blade and bifurcation of the base are generally characteristic of Early Archaic lithic technologies.

The midwest, as a region, may be delineated by many different criteria, paleoenvironmental, geomorphological, etc. For the sake of simplicity, however, this paper focuses on a more limited concept of the midwest, that defined by the state borders of Kentucky, West Virginia, Ohio, Indian, Michigan, Illinois, and Missouri. Early Archaic sites have been recorded in all of these states and some of these sites have made important contributions to our knowledge of the period. The following, organized by state, relates some of the more significant Early Archaic sites and data in the midwest.

Missouri: Perhaps the best known Early Archaic site in Missouri is Graham Cave, in the Northeast Prairie Region of the state. The Early Archaic horizon in the site yielded Graham Cave Notched, Hardin Barbed, Hidden Valley Stemmed, and St. Charles Notched points (Logan, 1952; C. Chapman, 1952; Klippel, 1971). Other noteworthy Early Archaic sites

in the state include the Rice Site (type site for Rice Lobed Points) in the Southwest Drainage Region (Bray, 1956), Rodgers Shelter in the Southwest Ozark Highland Region (Wood and McMillan, 1967, 1969; McMillan, 1971; Ahler, 1971), Tick Creek Cave in the Ozark Highlands Region (McMillan, 1965; Roberts, 1965), Arnold Research Case in the Northeast Prairie Region (Shippes, 1966), and the Hidden Valley Shelter in the Southeast Riverine Region (Adams, 1941, 1949; C. Chapman, 1948).

Illinois: A well documented excavation at Modoc Rock Shelter in southwestesrn Illinois yielded a strong Early Archaic Component (Fowler, 1959). The diagnostic artifacts recovered at Modoc included Hidden Valley Stemmed Points and Graham Cave Side-Notched Points. Luchterhand's investigation of Early Archaic Projectile Points and Hunting Patterns in the Lower Illinois Valley (1970) recognized Hardin Barbed, Thebes, and St. Charles points in the region. The Carrier Mills Archaeological Project (Jefferies and Butler, 1982), recovered specimens of Thebes, Hardin Barbed, Kirk Stemmed, Hidden Valley Stemmed, and LeCroy Bifurcate Points. Munson and Downs (1966) recorded 72 bifurcate points in a surface collection from central Illinois.

Kentucky: Excavations at Deep Shelter in Rowan County revealed Bifurcate Tradition points with associated dates of 6570 ± 470 B.C. and 5290 ± 550 B.C. (Dorwin and Warholic, 1970). At the Longworth-GiCk Site in the Falls of the Ohio region discrete Early Archaic deposits contained small Kirk Corner-Notch points with associated radiocarbon dates of 7816 ± 237 B.C. and 6735 ± 391 B.C. Larger Kirk Corner-Notch points were recovered from an overlying deposit with an associated date of 6732 ± 128 B.C. and overlying this deposit was a horizon containing bifurcate point types in association with a date of 6715 ± 113 B.C. (Collins, 1979; 1024). The Paintsville Reservoir Survey in Johnson and Morgan counties recovered Thebes, Kirk Corner-Notched, Kirk Serrated, LeCroy, St. Albans Bifurcate, Kanawha Stemmed, St. Charles, Amos Corner Notch-like, and Big Sandy Broad-Base points (Adovasio, 1982).

West Virginia: The St. Albans Site in Kanawha County has yielded some of the finest stratified Early Archaic data in the midwest. Broyles (1971; 49) recorded a broad sequence of Early Archaic point types with a series of associated radiocarbon dates. The point types, with their associated dates are: Kessel Side-Notched and Charleston Corner Notched points (7900 ± 500 B.C.), small Kirk Corner-Notch (6980 ± 160 B.C.), large Kirk Corner-Notch and Kirk Stemmed (6900 ± 320 B.C., 6850 ± 320 B.C.), MacCorkle Bifurcates (between 6900 ± 320 B.C. and 6880 ± 700 B.C.), St. Albans Points (6880 ± 700 B.C., 6870 ± 500 B.C.), LeCroy Bifurcates (6300 ± 100 B.C.), and Kanawha Stemmed Points

(6210 ± 100 B.C.). Broyles (1971; 55) also reported Amos Corner-Notch Points from the Early Archaic zones at the Amos Power Plant site in Putnam County, West Virginia.

Ohio: At the McKibben Site in Trumbull County, Prufer and Sofsky (1965) recorded Big Sandy Broad-Base Points, LeCroy Bifurcates, and a Palmer-like point. In his paper on Paleo and Early Archaic manifestations in the Western Basin Region of Lake Erie, Payne (1982) recorded MacCorkle Bifurcates, St. Albans Points, LeCroy Bifurcates, Kanawha-like points, and Thebes Points.

Michigan: Fitting (1964, 1975) reports bifurcate points from numerous southwestern Michigan sites, including the Holcombe Beach Site. Moreover an illustration of "Possible Early and Middle Archaic Projectile Points from Michigan Surface Collections" (Fitting, 1975, 70, fig. 22) includes Kirk Stemmed, Kirk Corner-Notched, Big Sandy Broad-Base, LeCroy, Thebes, and Charleston Corner-Notch Points.

Indiana: An inspection of the Ball State University point type collection reveals a wide range of Early Archaic types from central and northern Indiana sites. The types represented include all southeastern influence types, as well as Thebes, Lost Lake, and St. Charles Points. A catalogue of types (Mohow, 1984) in the type collection of Indiana University/Purdue University at Fort Wayne includes ten Early Archaic types from northeast Indiana sites. The types noted, are Kirk Corner-Notch, Kirk Stemmed, Kanawha, LeCroy Bifurcates, Lost Lake, MacCorkle, St. Albans, St. Charles, Thebes, and Big Sandy Broad-Base Points.

Having presented an overview of midwestern Early Archaic manifestations, I would now turn attention to the Maumee River Drainage in northeastern Indiana. A preliminary archaeological survey of a six mile stretch of the river's floodplain and adjacent terraces was conducted by Mohow and Diaz between 1981-1984. The survey identified a total of 70 prehistoric sites and recovered approximately 6,000 artifacts. Of the sites recorded, 17 were found to contain Early Archaic Components (Mohow and Diaz, 1986). Four of the sites (12-Al-894, 12-Al-390, 12-Al-899, 12-Al-414) displayed both southeastern influence point types and western influence types. Three other sites (12-Al-900, 12-Al-901, 12-Al-913) exhibited only western influence point types (Thebes, Lost Lake, and St. Charles Points). The remaining 10 sites (12-Al-896, 12-Al-902, 12-Al-908, 12-Al-911, 12-Al-912, 12-Al-914, 12-Al-505, 12-Al-924, 12-Al-931, 12-Al-936) exhibited only southeastern influence types (Amos Corner-Notch, Palmer, Kirk Corner-Notch, Wabash, Diagonal-Notch, MacCorkle Bifurcate, Kanawha, and Big Sandy Broad-Base Points).

In regards to settlement patterns, only three of the 17 sites with Early Archaic components are located in the floodplain, all the rest are situated on the river terraces. This preference for higher ground is noted by Collins (1979b; 1024) on Early Archaic sites in Kentucky, but contrasts with the Paintsville Reservoir Survey (Adovasio, 1982) where a preference for lowland locations was noted. While some glacial and local cherts (particularly Liston Creek Chert) were used in the recovered Early Archaic points a preference for Attica Chert was noted in western influence diagnostics, and a preference for Upper Mercer Chert was apparent in Bifurcate Tradition materials. Attica Chert outcrops along the Wabash River and its tributaries in West-central Indiana (Christenson, et al, 1979; 81). How these raw material preferences might reflect seasonal movement patterns will only be determined by further research.

The Early Archaic Point types recovered by the Maumee River Survey (Mohow and Diaz, 1986) indicate an "overlapping" of southeastern and western influences during the Early Archaic. Approximate occupational periods for Southeastern influence components might be drawn from the radiocarbon dates established at such sites as St. Albans (Broyles, 1971; 49) and Longworth-Gick in Kentucky (Collins, 1979; 1024). From this evidence, the Eastern Bifurcate Tradition seems to be firmly established between 7,000 B.C. and 6,000 B.C. The chronology for western influence point types, however, is not clearly defined. It is therefore not possible to define the temporal difference, if any exists, between the two influences. There is a great need for more excavational data, particularly regarding dates, on western influence Early Archaic associated with Thebes, Lost Lake, and St. Charles Points. We can say, however, that southeastern influence is more apparent in the Maumee River data (14 components) than the western influence (7 components). Whether this difference reflects population differences, settlement pattern preferences, or some other variable, will only be determined by further research. While a great deal is not yet understood about the Early Archaic Period, the Maumee river Survey data may serve to better define the spatial boundaries of midwestern Early Archaic manifestations.

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